

**COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE vs RYAN BOYCE, ET AL.**  
**William L. Girdner on 06/21/2024**

**30(b)(6)**

1                   IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2                   FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
3                   WESTERN DIVISION

4                   No. : 5:23-cv-00280-FL

5   -----x  
6   COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE,

7                   v.

8   RYAN BOYCE, in his official  
9   capacity as Director of the  
10   North Carolina  
11   Administrative Office of  
12   the Courts; MICHELLE BALL,  
13   in her official capacity as  
14   Clerk of Superior Court of  
15   Johnston County; RENEE  
16   WHITTENTON, in her official  
17   capacity as Clerk of  
18   Superior Court for Harnett  
19   County; and BLAIR WILLIAMS,  
20   in his official capacity as  
21   Clerk of Superior Court for  
22   Wake County,

23                   Defendants.

24   -----x

25   30(b)(6) Zoom Deposition of Courthouse News Service

BY: WILLIAM L. GIRDNER

(Taken by the Defendant)

Raleigh, North Carolina

Friday, June 21, 2024

Reported by:       Marisa Munoz-Vourakis -  
RMR, CRR and Notary Public

1 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL BY ZOOM:

2 For the Plaintiff:

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11 Also Present by Zoom: BERNIE BRENNAN, Paralegal

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20 Also Present by Zoom: CORRINE LUSIC, Deputy General  
Counsel of NCAOC

21 CHRIS AGOSTO CARRIERO, Esq.

22 RAFAEL BICHARA, Intern

Will Derrick, Intern

23

24

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1 North Carolina courts other than civil superior court?

2 A. Yeah, I mean, he -- the -- I think it's  
3 Triangle Report covered quite a few state superior  
4 courts in North Carolina. I'm sorry, yeah, state  
5 superior courts.

6 Q. Did he review newly-filed civil complaints  
7 that were filed in the district court?

8 A. Yes, in federal court, you mean, or?

9 Q. No. This is all to state court. I'm not  
10 going to ask about federal court, yes.

11 So would Rich Ivy review newly-filed civil  
12 complaints that are filed in the district court?

13 A. Yes, I believe that's the court of general  
14 jurisdiction, so yes.

15 Q. Okay. Would Rich Ivy report on say a  
16 divorce proceeding if it involved a famous person?

17 A. We normally do not have access to divorce  
18 proceedings, and we do not include them in the reports.  
19 So I'm sorry, I should have answered your question  
20 directly, no.

21 Q. Okay. So if you had heard a rumor, if Rich  
22 heard a rumor a Courthouse News reporter learned that,  
23 for example, Governor Cooper had just filed for a  
24 divorce from his wife, would that be something  
25 Courthouse News reports on?

1           A.       We don't report on domestic stuff.

2                   But I wanted to add that, you know,  
3 reporters in general would. They would find that in  
4 public interest. But it's not -- for our readers,  
5 that's not their kind of stuff.

6           Q.       Okay. All right. I'm going to scroll down  
7 in this complaint to paragraph 5 of the complaint. Do  
8 you see that?

9           A.       I do.

10          Q.       And it reads: During the transition from  
11 paper to electronic records, federal courts -- your  
12 windows are blocking me -- and many state courts kept  
13 in place the age-old tradition of access.

14                   Is it your testimony that in North  
15 Carolina, there was -- what was the age-old tradition  
16 of access?

17          A.       In North Carolina, as I say, I don't go  
18 back very far, and I don't know that this tradition  
19 existed in North Carolina. It was very common. I  
20 suspect it did, but I don't know.

21          Q.       So when -- and in this paragraph, it also  
22 goes on to say that: Some state clerks and administrators  
23 abandoned the age-old tradition of access, and that  
24 group includes NCAOC.

25                   What is the basis for the allegation that

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Marisa Munoz-Vourakis, Stenographic Reporter, RMR, CRR and Notary Public, certify that on June 21, 2024, in Pasadena, California, having produced satisfactory evidence of identification, and having been first duly sworn by me according to the emergency video notarization requirements contained in G.S. 10B-25, to tell the truth, thereupon testified as set forth in the preceding pages, exclusive of errata sheet and signature page, if required, the examination being reported by me verbatim and reduced to typewritten form by me personally.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding was conducted, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereof, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

This the 1st day of July, 2024.



MARISA MUNOZ-VOURAKIS

Notary #20032900127